



Crime Watch News

Long Beach Police Department . Crime Prevention Unit . 400 W. Broadway . Long Beach, CA 90802

Anthony W. Batts
Chief of Police

Ted Hulsey
Deputy Chief of Police
Patrol Bureau

Robert Luna
Deputy Chief
Investigations Bureau

Tim Jackman
Deputy Chief
Support Bureau

Braden Phillips
Manager
Administration Bureau

Karen Owens
Administrator
Community Relations Division

Kevin Coy
Sergeant
Crime Prevention Unit
Community Relations Division

COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION MEETING

IDENTITY THEFT

Wednesday
August 17, 2005 @ 7:00 p.m.

Long Beach Water Department
1800 East Wardlow Road

Our special guests for this evening will be Detectives from our Identity Theft Detail. Identity theft continues to be one of our most frequent crime prevention topic requests, so it must be time to provide an update.

Come and learn the most up-to-date identity theft trends and the means you can use to combat this crime.

This is a free presentation for everyone in our community!
Please bring your family and friends!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities	1
Community Police Academy	2
Newsletter Available On-Line	2
Elder Scams	3
#399 Roadside Assistance	3
Neighborhood Watch Success Stories	4

UPCOMING EVENTS/VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ Saturday, August 6, 2005, 10:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.
[Wilmore Mother's Bridage Community Safety Fair](#)
Ceasar Chavez Park - 401 Golden Avenue, Long Beach
For further information, contact Ann Chau: (562) 676-5635
- ◆ Saturday, August 13, 2005, 10:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.
[Madres Unides Community Resource and Health Fair](#)
Admiral Kidd Park - 2125 Santa Fe Avenue, Long Beach
For further information, contact Monique Johnson: (562) 570-6139
- ◆ Any Day of the Week;
[Become a Police Department Volunteer](#)
For further information, contact Sgt. David Marander (562) 570-7285

COMMUNITY POLICE ACADEMY NEWS

The next academy is scheduled to begin this month!

The next Community Police Academy is scheduled to begin August 31, 2005. This course is a 15-week class, held on Wednesday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Unfortunately, as of this writing, the class is full with 40 community participants. However, we want to tell

a patrol unit. The goal is to allow you to experience police work from an entirely new perspective. Two college units will also be earned upon graduation.

Participants must meet the following requirements:



you about it so you don't forget to sign up for our next class in February.

The Long Beach Police Academy, in conjunction with Long Beach City College, has created a class curriculum for community participants to gain an insight and understanding of the criminal justice system and the Long Beach Police Department. The goal of the Community Police Academy is to build a stronger relationship between the citizens of Long Beach and the Long Beach Police Department.

Long Beach Police Officers, Detectives and other Department Experts provide presentations on our numerous programs and services, including: patrol operations, narcotics, criminal law, S.W.A.T., K-9 and other related fields. Participants also have an opportunity to participate in a ride-along with

- ♦ Live or work in the City of Long Beach
- ♦ Minimum age of 21 years or currently enrolled in L.B. City College
- ♦ No outstanding warrants, pending criminal cases, or felony conviction
- ♦ Must be able to attend all but two of the scheduled dates of the academy for admission consideration and graduation eligibility

If you're interested in participating in the February 2006 Class, please contact Sergeant Gail Dennison, Community Police Academy Coordinator at (562) 570-5910. You can also email your name, address, telephone number and a brief statement of interest or download an application at <http://www.longbeach.gov/police/> (in the announcements section).

NEWSLETTER Available On-Line

As you are all well aware, the City Of Long Beach has been going through some tough budgeting times.

*As a result, we are looking for ways to reduce unnecessary expenditures. Currently we mail our **CrimeWatch News** to over 1500 households throughout Long Beach. This adds up to big dollars in postage each month.*

The newsletter is sent out to all of our current and past Block Captains, all our Chief's Advisory Group members and several other Department and City officials.

*We updated our Neighborhood Watch database a couple of years ago and removed those Neighborhood Watch Groups who said they were no longer active and those who were no longer interested in maintaining their Neighborhood Watch Group. We have found that many of these folks still remain on our newsletter mailing list. So, in the interest of budget savings, we will discontinue sending the **CrimeWatch News** to those past Block Captains who are no longer interested in participating in the Neighborhood Watch Program.*

Department Website
www.longbeach.gov/police

If you find your issue has been discontinued next month, please visit our PD Website to obtain an on-line "pdf" copy. If your group has reactivated or wishes to reactivate, please contact our Neighborhood Watch Program Coordinator, Lisa Massacani, at (562) 570-7229! Lisa would be more than happy to restart your group!

Neighborhood Watch Topic **ELDER SCAMS**

Calling All Block Captains!

In our July issue of "Crime Watch News," we dedicated a full page to Elder Scams. It's an important topic for everyone in the community, as the most prevalent victims are our community seniors. It's unfortunate that we are now in the day and age where we cannot trust as many people as we did in the 1930's, '40's and '50's. Life has changed for the good and the bad....and victimizing our elders is definitely one of the bads of the new century.

Last month, the Forgery Fraud Detail observed a pattern of elder scams, occurring primarily in the Los Altos area of East Long Beach. They notified the East Patrol Division and then worked to put together a "Senior Scams" Forum to help educate the community. The event was well attended and a positive educational experience for all.

Fortunately for our community, the Police Department has a Police Services Assistant who specializes in elder abuse and elder scams. PSA Dave Lanier is a 7-year veteran of our Department and is currently assigned to our Forgery/Fraud Detail. He has taken the topics of elder abuse and elder fraud to heart and has worked very hard to help our area seniors deal with the victimization and frustration of these crimes.

PSA Lanier wants to bring his message on the road to our Neighborhood Watch meetings. He honestly believes that the more information he can provide to the community, the less our seniors will be victimized by the criminals out there. His presentations will be approximately 1 hour in length and will definitely be worth your time and effort!

To schedule PSA Lanier for an Elder Abuse/Elder Fraud presentation, please contact our Neighborhood Watch Program Coordinator, Lisa Massacani at (562) 570-7229. Don't forget to invite all your neighborhood seniors and all of their kids!

#399 ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

Metro and the Los Angeles County Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (LA SAFE) announced a new non-emergency cell phone number that motorists can use for roadside assistance on Los Angeles County Freeways. This new number, #399, allows motorists traveling along the freeway system in Los Angeles County to use their cell phone to summons roadside assistance from their Auto Club or from the Metro Freeway Service Patrol.

Motorists, using their cell phone, simply dial #399 and they will be connected to a live operator who will assist them in obtaining the appropriate service in response to their call. "With the influx of cell phone technology, this makes perfect sense in expanding the freeway call box program to allow motorists here in LA County assistance," said Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board Chairman Frank Roberts.

LA SAFE is implemented this new program effective July 1, 2005. It is anticipated that the introduction of the #399 number will reduce the burden on the 9-1-1 emergency system by providing motorists with a viable option to call when in need of non-emergency roadside assistance. Examples may include running out of gas, flat tire or mechanical malfunction of a vehicle out of the freeway travel lanes. This new cell phone #399 number do not replace the 9-1-1 emergency number. Motorists should continue to use 9-1-1 when requesting medical, fire or law enforcement response or reporting a hazard on a freeway travel lane.

It is estimated that an average of 10,000 calls per month for the first year will be received from motorists using the #399 number. There will be no charge to caller by LA SAFE to answer and handle the call, however, the caller may be assessed minute charges by their carrier against their current plan.

**Now your cellphone
is a callbox.**

Just dial #399 for
motorist aid.

Dial #399 from your cellphone to:

- > request Metro Freeway Service Patrol tow service
- > report freeway road hazards
- > contact your auto club
- > report freeway damage or needed repairs

The #399 service is:

- > fully-staffed by English and Spanish speaking operators
- > available to provide translation assistance in over 150 languages and equipped to serve the deaf, hearing and speech impaired
- > always open – accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week by cellphone

Remember #399 does not replace 911. Use 911 if you need medical, fire department or law enforcement response. But for all non-emergency freeway assistance, dial #399.



Metro



Effective July 1, 2005, the Metro Freeway Service Patrol will expand selected weekday and weekend service in existing patrol areas providing service from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the weekends. The number of Metro Freeway Service Patrol tow trucks will increase from 33 to 44 in midday during the week and from 28 to 42 on the weekends.

Funding for the new #399 number is provided by LA SAFE, which obtains its revenues from an annual \$1 vehicle registration surcharge assessed to each vehicle registered in Los Angeles County. Cost of the program is estimated at \$1 million a year.

LA SAFE was created in 1988, pursuant to California Streets and Highway Code Section 2550 et seq. and is responsible for providing motorist aid services in Los Angeles County.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH STORIES

AROMA OF SUCCESS AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH APPRECIATION BBQ

Please forward your Neighborhood Watch Success Stories to PSA Lisa Massacani at Lisa_Massacani@longbeach.gov

This year's annual Neighborhood Watch Appreciation Barbecue was held at the POA Park behind our Police Academy on July 20th. If you missed it, you missed a good one! It was enjoyed by over 150 Neighborhood Watch participants. In addition to good food (including PSA Evelyn Johnson's world-renowned BBQ Beans) and good company, a very informative presentation was provided by Officer Ed Bonachea and his explosive detecting K-9 Partner Truda.

Acting Chief Robert Luna, Deputy Chief Jackman and Manager Braden Phillips were on hand to honor this year's **Chief's Citation** recipients:

- ♦ **Block Captain Edelma Trinidad — 3800 Block of Marron Avenue Neighborhood Watch Group**
- ♦ **6700 Block Gardenia Neighborhood Watch Group**
- ♦ **Via Carmelitos Families Neighborhood Watch Group**

In addition, we celebrated a new award which was presented to those Neighborhood Watch Groups who hosted five or more Neighborhood Watch meetings in the year 2004. The **Neighborhood Watch Honor Award** was suggested by the Chief's Neighborhood Watch Advisory Group and was quickly placed into action at this year's BBQ. Nine Neighborhood Watch Groups were provided this award:

- ♦ **700 Block of Aivlis Street**
- ♦ **300 Block of East Arbor Street**
- ♦ **300 Block of Cedar Avenue**
- ♦ **100 Block of Claremont Avenue**
- ♦ **Grand Avenue/Wilton Street**
- ♦ **5900 Block of Naples Plaza**
- ♦ **Via Carmelitos Families**
- ♦ **Via Carmelitos Seniors**
- ♦ **300 Block Walnut Avenue**

Thank you for all you do!



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